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LETTER DATED 7 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the cease-fire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 25 November 1997 and 19 February 1998, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Iranian violations of the cease-fire and the 1991 Tehran agreement, 25 November 1997-19 February 1998

1. 25 November 1997

At 0830 hours the maritime pilot Amir Adnan Abd al-Razzaq was piloting the United Arab Emirates tug Shihab and the tender Saba from the open sea into Abu Fulus. As he arrived off Muhammarah, shots were fired at the tug from the Iranian observation towers. There were three separate shots, and the tug was not hit.

2. 26 November 1997

Four wood-and-fibreglass boats left Faw heading out to sea inside our territorial waters. Because of bad weather and strong winds, they were drawn towards the Iranian shore in the area of the Khowr-e Bahmashir estuary at coordinates 2301. At 0800 hours on 27 November, a grey Iranian boat with a DShK machine-gun mounted in the bow and carrying four persons in military uniform approached them. They escorted the boats towards the Iranian shore and took their occupants to Iranian jails after blindfolding them. On 6 December they were released after they had been questioned and their addresses and details of official documents had been taken.

3. 28 November 1997

An Iranian patrol detained a group of fishermen while they were fishing in Iraqi territorial waters in Iraqi fishing boats and took them to Iran after tying them up tightly and blindfolding them. They were released on 8 December. While they were in custody they were questioned.

4. 3 December 1997

An Iranian boat with a machine-gun mounted in the bow and four persons in military uniform on board seized the Iraqi fishing boats Musallam 60 and Al-Mahrus bi-Allah and their crews of 13 Iraqi fishermen. They had been fishing inside Iraqi territorial waters at coordinates 8899 (1:100,000 map of Mina' al-Bakr). After the fishermen were blindfolded, the two boats were taken to the Iranian shore at Khowr-e Bahmashir and put in Abadan prison. On 11 December the fishermen and the boats were released after the men had been questioned.

5. 5 December 1997

At 1400 hours a khaki-coloured fighter aircraft coming from inside Iranian territory flew over the Iranian positions opposite the Fakkah area at coordinates 514501. It disappeared among the hills at coordinates 518526. It was at an altitude of 500 metres and was airborne for five minutes.

6. 6 December 1997

At 1000 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was seen at an altitude of between 400 and 500 metres at coordinates 8017 opposite the Fakkah area 3 kilometres from the boundary line. After hovering in the air for five minutes it headed towards Iranian territory.

7. 6 December 1997

At 1320 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian combat helicopter was seen coming from inside Iranian territory. It flew over the Iranian detachment at coordinates 5050 in the Jalat area following the boundary line at a distance of 50 metres inside Iranian territory. After 10 minutes it returned to the Iranian rear.

8. 7 December 1997

At 1530 hours a helicopter was seen coming from inside Iranian territory and heading from the Zayn al-Qaws slope opposite the Firyal post at coordinates 547841. It reconnoitred the sector and then returned to the Iranian rear.

9. 7 December 1997

At 1810 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was seen at coordinates 7409 opposite the Fakkah area at an altitude of 400 to 500 metres and 1 kilometre from the boundary. At 1820 hours it returned to the Iranian rear.

10. 11 December 1997

The Iranian side opened a new observation post manned by some 10 to 12 persons opposite the Shihabi post at coordinates 365434 (1:100,000 map of Shaykh Sa'd). The position was provided with combat supplies by two helicopters, one of them of the Cobra type. Work at the post is still under way, and positions are being maintained and fortified.

11. 29 December 1997

At 1630 hours three trucks were seen carrying a group of some 100 to 120 Iranian soldiers. They alighted in the Abadan area at coordinates 400568. Two caravans were installed at the same site.

12. 20 January 1998

At 1330 hours a group of some 15 persons, some in military uniform and some in Kurdish dress, were seen deploying in Wadi al-Qal'ah at coordinates 6913. They fired at one of our border posts.

13. 4 February 1998

At 1100 hours the Iranian side erected three 5-metre-high green metal observation towers at coordinates 314575, 350590 and 305595 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

14. 4 February 1998

At 0830 hours the Iranian side proceeded to level the road behind the Iranian post at coordinates 364219 (1:100,000 map of Faw).

15. 4 February 1998

At 1600 hours an Iranian 110-horsepower fibreglass Johnson patrol boat with four masked persons on board wearing black clothing and armed with rifles was seen coming from the Iranian customs post at coordinates 7005130 (1:100,000 map of Mina' al-Bakr) towards the Iranian post at coordinates 364219 (1:100,000 map of Faw). They landed two of the persons at the post opposite the Mu'amir area. At 1730 hours the boat returned to the Iranian maritime customs post.

16. 5 February 1998

At 1200 hours two trucks and a water trailer were seen opposite Sharhani at coordinates 2958723 repairing and restoring an old building that resembled a border post.

17. 9 February 1998

At 0900 hours the Iranian side began to lay foundations for a building between the Iranian control post and the Iranian customs post 200 metres away at Mundhiriyah.

18. 10 February 1998

At 2000 hours six shots were heard being fired from the Khusrawi post at coordinates 4503 (1:100,000 map of Khanaqin) for no known reason. The call "Allahu Akbar" was also heard.

19. 13 February 1998

At 1115 and 1400 hours the Iranian side set fire to the reeds behind the forward embankment opposite the Fayhan area at coordinates 321571 and the Kat'ah area at coordinates 308605 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

20. 13 February 1998

At 1115 hours the Iranian side took 50 persons in military uniform and their equipment in a wooden launch from Muhammarah at coordinates 395670. They were landed at Abadan port at coordinates 415550 (1:100,000 map of Saybah), and they proceeded towards the Abadan refineries.

21. 19 February 1998

At 0500 hours shots were heard inside Iranian territory opposite the Wasiliyah area at coordinates 425545 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). The firing continued for 10 minutes.